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South Africa, Republic of

Citrus

Annual

2001

Approved by:

Richard Helm

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Patricia Mabiletsa

Report Highlights:

South Africa's citrus production for 2001 is expected to reach about 1.5 million tons, up 11% from last year because of favourable weather conditions and increased area harvested. Exports are expected to increase to about 800,000 tons as a result of the benefit from devaluation of the Rand and increased production.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Annual Report
Pretoria [SF1], SF

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Executive Summary

The South African citrus industry is primarily dominated by Valencia orange varieties which include the Delta's Midknights and Navels. The 2000/2001 citrus production is expected to increase, despite earlier flood damage in the Northern Province. The delivered-in-port prices of valencias and navels have reflected good producer prices and real price increases.

Exports of grapefruit have consistently accounted for more than 60% of the total grapefruit production during the past four years. There is an increase planting for Star Ruby variety, which currently has a lower citrus market share(6.5%) compared to Marsh grapefruit (7.3%).

In 2001 production of oranges, grapefruit and lemons is estimated to increase to about 1,520 million tons, up 11% from last year. Exports are expected to rise by 17% from 707,000 MT. Estimates for 2001 indicate about 10% increase in production of oranges, 19% for grapefruit, and 14% for lemons from a year earlier. Consumption is expected to about 5% higher than last year. These increases are due to the effects of enough soil moisture content following favorable weather, sunlight, increased area and improved cultivars in the citrus growing areas.

Production

Oranges,Fresh

PSD Table						
Country:	South Africa, Republic of					
Commodity:	Oranges					
		1999		2000		2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Area Planted	53728	53728	54728	54728		55200
Area Harvested	43539	43539	44659	44659		45700
Bearing Trees	16122	16122	16722	16722		17300
Non-Bearing Trees	1854	1854	1954	1954		2100
TOTAL No. Of Trees	17976	17976	18676	18676	0	19400
Production	974	1048	1047	1049		1160
Imports	1	1	1	1		1
TOTAL SUPPLY	975	1049	1048	1050	0	1161
Exports	450	562	520	507		600
Fresh Dom. Consumption	295	228	298	267		280
Processing	230	259	230	276		281
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	975	1049	1048	1050	0	1161

South African orange production for 2001 is expected to increase by 10%, from last year's production, which was affected by flood damage in the Northern Province in early 1999. Prices on the local markets are expected to be lower this year as a result of an increase in production.

Exports

The trade data shown in the PS&D tables are supplied by the National Department of Agriculture, the Citrus Growers Association, and the Department of Customs and Excise which also supplied figures shown in the trade matrices.

The following table contains the CY2000 export details in Metric Tons as used in the PS&D's table.

Calendar Year 2000

U.S.	9,367
Netherlands	94,109
Belgium	85,839
United Kingdom	64,435
Saudi Arabia	59,716
Spain	34,629
U A Emirates	30,446
Hongkong	26,209
Canada	21,134
Russian Fed	19,092
France	17,039
Others not listed	45,140
Grand Total	507,155

Orange Juice

PSD Table						
Country:				Mt. 65*	Degrees Brix	
Commodity:	Orange Juice					
		1999		2000		2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin						
Deliv. To Processors	230	259	230	276	0	281
Beginning Stocks	1280	3338	65	2500	300	623
Production	15785	15750	18550	19000		20500
Imports	0	0	100	100		100
TOTAL SUPPLY	17065	19088	18715	21600	300	21223
Exports	4500	6338	6380	10477		8100
Domestic Consumption	12500	10250	12035	10500		10700
Ending Stocks	65	2500	300	623	300	2423
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	17065	19088	18715	21600	300	21223

Exports

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Calendar Year 2000

U.S.	0
Netherlands	9,384
Spain	697
Greece	116
United Kingdom	111
Mauritius	34
France	31
Denmark	20
Germany	20
Switzerland	20
Mozambique	19
Others not listed	25
Grand Total	10,477

Lemons,Fresh

PSD Table						
Country:	South Africa, Republic of					
Commodity:	Fresh Lemons					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Area Planted	3550	3550	3550	3550		3550
Area Harvested	2958	2958	2970	2970		2980
Bearing Trees	1164	1164	1170	1170		1180
Non-Bearing Trees	200	200	216	216		230
TOTAL No. Of Trees	1364	1364	1386	1386	0	1410
Production	95	95	110	112		130
Imports	0	0	0	0		0
TOTAL SUPPLY	95	95	110	112	0	130
Exports	45	60	50	66		80
Fresh Dom. Consumption	17	13	23	9		10
Processing	33	22	37	37		40
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	95	95	110	112	0	130

Preliminary figures for 2001 indicate an increase of about 14% in total lemon production. Only a small percentage(8%) of lemons are sold fresh in the domestic markets, about 60% are exported and the remaining 30% processed. The competitiveness and good demand for South African lemons in the export markets have consistently increased producer prices since 1996. Price levels for 2001 are expected to increase again.

Exports

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Calendar Year 2000

U.S.	203
Saudi Arabia	12,449
U A Emirates	10,509
United Kingdom	7,783
Hongkong	6,192
Belgium	5,606
Japan	4,627
Netherlands	4,359
Slovenia	1,469
Singapore	1,342
Spain	1,230
Others not listed	10,231
Grand Total	66,000

Grapefruit,Fresh

PSD Table						
Country:	S.A.					
Commodity:	Fresh Grapefruit					
		1998		1999		2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1999		01/2000		01/2001
Area Planted	4360	4360	4360	4360		4360
Area Harvested	3927	3927	3930	3930		3933

Bearing Trees	15360	15360	15400	15400		15410
Non-Bearing Trees	100	100	105	105		110
TOTAL No. Of Trees	15460	15460	15505	15505	0	15520
Production	189	171	200	186		230
Imports	1	1	1	1		1
TOTAL SUPPLY	190	172	201	187	0	231
Exports	145	115	150	134		170
Fresh Dom. Consumption	10	11	11	9		10
Processing	35	46	40	44		51
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	190	172	201	187	0	231

Estimates indicate an increase of about 19% in total grapefruit production for 2000 and an improvement in exports of 21% from last year.

Exports

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The following table contains the CY2000 export details in Metric Tons as used in the PS&D's table.

Calendar Year 2000

U.S.	18
Japan	33,031
Netherlands	25,258
Belgium	24,484
United Kingdom	20,522
Mozambique	8,229
France	6,479
Canada	4,917
Italy	3,316
Hongkong	1,839

Spain	982
Others not listed	4,494
Grand Total	133,569

Trade

South Africa's citrus exports should continue to benefit from the rand's devaluation, which is expected to boost export earnings and depress agricultural imports. The rapid devaluation of the Rand compared to the US Dollar should also favour SA exports to the US, if US's phytosanitary requirements can continue to be met.

South Africa's biggest export market is still Europe, with an estimated export of about 612,000 Tons per annum, and is followed by the middle East, Japan, United Kingdom, the Far East and the United states. Three of SA's largest independent fruit exporters have landed a contract to export about R100 million of citrus fruit to Japan. The export deal comes after many seasons of poor returns for fruit farmers.

SA's agricultural industries are lobbying the government to establish domestic support, as well as export enhancement programs.

International Standards

The fruit industry is finalizing the Maximum Residue Limit(MRL) information that will include: the local SA registered MRL and withholding period; an export default MRL and export withholding period; and the EU, USA and Codex MRL's, per fruit type. Export default MRL's expected from the National Department of Health and Quality will include new Grading Standard Regulations based on the strictest MRL according to EU Member States, Canada and the USA.

Phytosanitary

The Western Cape is free of Citrus Black Spot(CBS), as a result, only citrus produced in the area can be exported to the United States. USDA has a phytosanitary pre-clearance and inspection program in the Western Cape for SA citrus destined for the US market. Several other countries such as Japan, Korea, the EU also have pre-clearance programs for citrus exports to their markets.

Marketing

A new international campaign, under the umbrella slogan of 'Fruit South Africa' has been launched to promote the image of SA fruit products. The SA fruit industry under 'Fruit South Africa' participated in the Asia Fruit Conference held in Hong Kong in early May. The industry has pledged to continue to participate in international fruit trade fairs. The South African Fruit Exporter's Forum indicates that the fruit export industry is undergoing a fundamental change and adapting quickly to the requirements of the free market system.